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Your essential daily news | MONDAY, APRIL 4, 2016

High 12°C/Low 7°C Scattered showers

Brendon Williams poses for photos at home in Victoria on Thursday.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

BRIEF CAREER

B.C. man's underwear gag for his wife leads to modelling gig metroNEWS

Hungry for affordability

COST OF LIVING

Rising food costs compound city's housing crisis: Poll

Matt Kieltyka
Metro | Vancouver

The word affordability is on everyone's lips in Vancouver these days.

For many in this region, it's synonymous with housing costs.

But a new survey released Monday by the Vancouver-based Angus Reid Institute takes a look at another issue that's compounding the ability of low-income earners, youth and families to make ends meet.

Fifty-seven per cent of Canadians say rising food prices have made it more difficult for them to feed their households this year, according to the poll.

That's led to 71 per cent of respondents switching to cheaper brands to save money, 61 per cent have cut back on meat, 42 per cent are buying fewer fruits and vegetables while 40 per cent admit to choosing less healthy options at the grocery store because it's cheaper.

Eight per cent said they've turned to food banks for help.

"We all know how much affordability is linked to the cost of housing in Metro Vancouver. It's well canvassed. It's what everyone is talking about," said Shachi Kurl, executive director of the Angus Reid Institute. "(Rising food prices) just adds one more pressure point, especially for low-income and young people ... some who are already having to make a choice to leave the region."

The latest findings add to the narrative Vancouverites' wallets are becoming increasingly stretched.

Last year, the Canadian Rental Housing Index found British Columbia has the highest share of rental households spending over 30 per cent of their income on rent.

Four of the top five urban centres where people are paying over 50 per cent are within the Lower Mainland: Coquitlam, Richmond, Burnaby and Vancouver.

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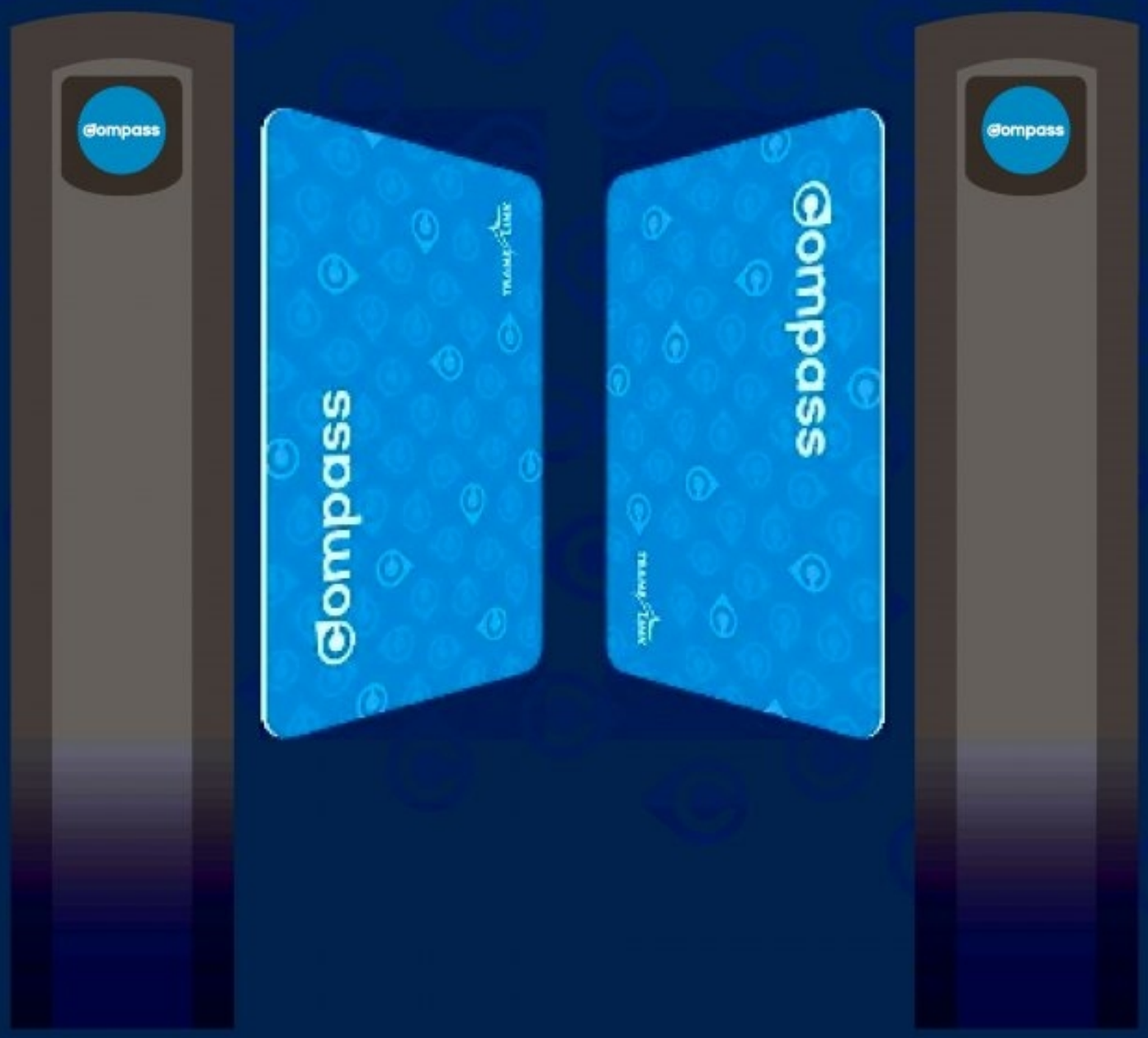

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Poll shows Canadians finding it harder to feed their families. **Business**

5 THINGS TO WATCH AT CITY HALL THIS WEEK

Non-Partisan Association Coun. Melissa De Genova is pushing to get a section of Commercial Drive named Little Italy in time for Italian Day on June 12. Here's what else is going on at city hall.

Emily Jackson
Metro | Vancouver

A screenshot of Airbnb listings in Vancouver. SCREENSHOT

1 Airbnb

The Airbnb debate hits city hall this week, where council is expected to direct staff to quickly conduct thorough research into the online home rental service and ways to regulate it. Mayor Gregor Robertson has expressed worries that the boom in Airbnb listings could be taking rental housing off the market for owners who prefer short-term stays with high price tags to long-term tenants. There are more than 4,000 properties listed on Airbnb in Vancouver, according to estimates by researchers. Airbnb does not share its data.

Naloxone kit. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

2 Naloxone

Vancouver Fire and Rescue Services Chief John McKearney will give councillors an update on training his crews to administer naloxone, a drug that can save people from death after overdosing on drugs like heroin. Firefighters in Vancouver and Surrey have been training since January to administer the drug to people who are in the midst of an overdose. Firefighters are often the first responders to overdose calls, so giving them the ability to administer the overdose reversal drug can save lives if it takes paramedics a long time to arrive. Health Canada changed its rules in March to make naloxone available without a prescription.

Italian Day on Commercial Drive. LIAM BRITTEN/FOR METRO

3 Little Italy

Time is running out for the city to designate a section of Commercial Drive as Little Italy before Italian Day in June, a deadline preferred by the community that wants to see their heritage reflected in the name of a few blocks. But council's decision in June 2015 to tie the naming of Little Italy to the Grandview-Woodland community planning process has held up the designation in a complex, tense and lengthy process. NPA Coun. Melissa De Genova is fed up with waiting. She will introduce a motion calling on council to deal with the Little Italy recognition separately and expedite the process so the naming will be done before 300,000 citizens flock to the Drive for the street party on June 12.

Vancouver City Hall. ERIC DREGER/THE CANADIAN PRESS

4 Sanctuary city

Vancouver is moving forward with a policy to provide access to city services no matter what a person's immigration status, whether they're applying for refugee status or migrant workers without documents. City employees will not ask for immigration status for services such as tenant assistance or licensing so everyone can have access without fear of detention or deportation. The policy will not apply to police, the library or the park board, but the city is encouraging these agencies to adopt the rules too.

5 Because it's 2016

Half of Vancouver city councillors are women, but gender parity is less apparent on the city's advisory committees. Coun. Andrea Reimer wants to change that. Her motion — called "Because it's 2016" in a hat tip to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's 50-50 gender split cabinet — calls on the city to mandate equal gender splits when it appoints people to advisory committees such as the Urban Design Panel. Reimer was inspired to move the motion after all suggestions for new appointees to the UDP were men.

Coun. Andrea Reimer. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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SENIORS

Care home lays off all staff

A seniors-care home on Vancouver Island is laying off its entire staff thanks to what the facility's operator calls years of chronic underfunding from the region's health authority.

More than 150 employees at Wexford Creek Care Home in Nanaimo, B.C., ranging from nurses to care aides, received pink slips on Friday.

There is a 150-resident capacity at the facility, where services range from complex care to private, assisted living.

A statement from the centre's operator, the Edmonton-based Good Samaritan Society, says the care home reported $2.6 million in losses over the past eight years.

The statement says Wexford Creek will be sold to an unnamed third party, which will be responsible for hiring its own workers, and that staffing changes will not affect residents' quality of care.

Two years ago, the same facility terminated 122 positions, which Good Samaritan Society President and CEO Shawn Terlson says was due to similar funding concerns from the Island Health Authority.

150

Number of staff members given pink slips. Also the number of beds in the seniors' home.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Terlson wrote at the time in a memo to staff that future job opportunities would be offered with "significantly reduced compensation."

The last day of work for current employees is Sept. 30.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Meihua Huang piloted a pontoon plane with assistance from flight instructor Tom Drybrough at the Imperial Canadian Flying Institution in Pitt Meadows. COURTESY MEIHUA HUANG

Amputee gets to soar

INSPIRATION

Pilots, doctors saved her, now she flies, aims for med school

Trevor Biggs
For Metro | Vancouver

A room filled with more than 100 people at the University of British Columbia fell silent Sunday as they listened to Meihua Huang share her story of survival and perseverance.

In 2008, the Sichuan earthquake demolished her elementary school. The 11-year-old Huang was buried underneath the building for several hours.

With the help of her family, Huang managed to escape the destruction. However, they could not find a hospital bed for her in their remote mountain village.

"After six days, I was desperate and I didn't think I was going to leave," said Huang. "I just waited for death."

Those six excruciating days finally ended with a couple of soldiers propelling down with a helicopter to rescue Huang. Both of her legs were broken and badly infected. She had to have them both amputated.

As she recovered in the hospital, she was frustrated about her predicament.

"At first, I thought that I'm useless and I didn't know what to do," she said, "until one thing happened."

"I comforted a boy who lost his legs in a car accident. After (seeing him) several times, I saw his smile. I thought that I am not useless anymore. I can bring some help and some influence to others."

Huang is dedicating her life to helping others, just like how those pilots, soldiers, and doctors helped save her life.

That's why one of her aspirations was to become a pilot. One flying school in the Lower Mainland helped her fulfil that dream.

Her high school principal, James Wu, contacted 10 flying schools until the Imperial Canadian Flying Institution in Pitt Meadows invited her to join them.

On March 31, Huang successfully piloted a pontoon plane with assistance from flight instructor Tom Drybrough.

Before I took off, I thought maybe I'm going to be dizzy, maybe I can't fly, maybe I'm going to throw up," said Huang. "Luckily, I did not. I am just thankful because so many people helped.

"I thought that pilots plus planes equals lifesavers. I wanted to get these skills so that one day I can transform from this person who was waiting for death to this person who might give hope to others."

Huang is also about to embark on her dream of becoming a doctor, now that she has been accepted to UBC.

CITY EVENTS BIRDS OF A FEATHER PILLOW FIGHT TOGETHER Feathers fill the air as people participate in an organized pillow fight in downtown Vancouver, B.C., on Saturday. The event was held as part of International Pillow Fight Day. DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Bloggers shine a positive light

#VANCOUVERISTAY

Hashtag helps highlight city's loves despite housing costs

Emily Jackson
Metro | Vancouver

Three local bloggers tired of hearing people complain about Vancouver's exorbitant housing costs managed to break through the negativity over the weekend by getting people to share the reasons they love the city with the hashtag #VancouverIStay.

Cassandra Anderton, Mary Sheridan and Josh Rimer dreamed up the hashtag last week in response to a break up letter penned by Jennifer Fox, a young woman leaving "No Fun City" for more affordable pastures.

"We thought we'd head around the city, ask people why they're staying and shed some light on Vancouver on the positive side," Anderton said Sunday. "Enough with all this whining. If you don't want to stick around and do something with the city, then you're free to go."

The response on the streets was very positive, Anderton said, with people citing the mountains, the people, the food trucks and their kids' little league teams as reasons to stay put.

But on Twitter, the hashtag got some backlash from critics saying the campaign misses the point, arguing a picture of the seawall won't solve the city's problems. Anderton disagrees.

"We weren't burying our heads in the sand, we were just trying to showcase the positive for a change," she said, adding all three bloggers volunteer to do their part to make the city a better place. "Of course we can't address the affordable housing issue in one day by making people smile."

Others accused the bloggers — all have tens of thousands of followers — of being funded by developers. They're not, Anderton said, adding that all sponsored content on her website is clearly marked.

Ultimately, she's happy the campaign sparked positivity and hopes it dispels stereotypes that Vancouverites are cold and unfriendly. She's certainly not going anywhere — and neither are the mountain, seawall and B.C. wine lovers who participated in the trending hashtag campaign.

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UBC break-in attempt prompts warning

SECURITY

School advises students on keeping safe

The University of British Columbia sent a warning email to students who live on campus after a man attempted to break into a residence lounge where a female resident was studying.

The incident happened Friday at 2 a.m. outside the Marine Drive Building 5 lounge, where a male was seen pressing himself against the exterior window.

The man attempted entry, but was unsuccessful, and the resident fled, said managing director of student housing and hospitality services Andrew Parr. RCMP and campus security were unable to apprehend the man.

It's unclear whether the incident is connected to a recent series of "night prowler events" where a man was seen lurking in bathrooms and bedrooms at UBC residences, Parr said.

Police say the night prowler incidents may be connected to the sexual assault of a 20-year-old woman on campus last week.

Following the attempted break-in, the university felt it important to send a warning email to the 9,500 students who live in campus residences, said Parr.

The email was customized for different residences and reminded students to lock doors and windows and to follow the procedure for reporting suspicious activity. It also advised students to use new security measures including the UBC Blue Phone network that connects directly with campus security.

Parr said these types of incidents were occurring at a frequency that was "completely unacceptable and frustrating to UBC." THE CANADIAN PRESS

The university sent the email on Friday. EMILY JACKSON/METRO FILE

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SURREY

Man injured in targeted shooting

Emily Jackson
Metro | Vancouver

Surrey police are investigating a shooting that sent one man to hospital with a gunshot wound this weekend, an incident that marks the 29th report of shots fired in Surrey this year.

Mounties found a man suffering from serious but non-life-threatening injuries when they responded to reports of shots fired in the 12200 block of 92 Avenue on Saturday shortly before 8 p.m., according to a statement from Surrey RCMP.

Investigators believe the incident was targeted. A vehicle was seen fleeing the scene shortly after the shooting, but investigators do not yet have a description of the vehicle.

The shooting came the day after police issued a news release to inform the public about their efforts to disrupt the local drug trade, which is related to the spate of shootings. There have been 28 other shootings since Jan. 1, 2016, resulting in five injuries and one death, according to police. Most individuals involved are associated with drug dealing.

Supt. Manny Mann said the RCMP disrupted the gang conflicts last year by making more than 800 arrests and detentions, but that this year's shootings appear to involve a new drug-related conflict between two groups.

Mann said police are making progress on the investigations into the recent shootings.

Supt. Shawn Gill said the entire community needs to get involved to make sure young people stay away from drug trafficking.

"The drug trade is constantly changing. The individuals change and the drugs change, but the problem remains the same — young people are being lured into this criminal lifestyle with illusions of money and power, but the reality is much different," Gill said in a statement.

Anyone with further information about the shooting is asked to call Surrey RCMP at 604-599-0502 or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477.

IN BRIEF

CUPE investigating death
A local union president says CUPE is involved in investigating the recent death of a Vancouver Park Board arborist.

Andrew Ledger says 43-year-old Jody Taylor, who died on the job Thursday, worked as a city arborist for 16 years.

He was critically injured while trimming trees at a park in the Kitsilano neighbourhood and later died in hospital.

Ledger joined Mayor Gregor Robertson and other city officials in extending condolences to Taylor's family, friends and co-workers. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Needles prick children
Two children were pricked by discarded needles found in an old tree stump while playing outside their apartment complex in Nanaimo, B.C.

Police said the children, aged four and five, were taken to hospital for assessment and treatment on Tuesday.

Constable Gary O'Brien said people who live in the area say it's a common occurrence to find needles around, a situation he called "totally unacceptable."

Police seized the needles and disposed of them safely. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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BODY IMAGE

Regular guy finds fame and life lessons as star in fake ad

Brendon Williams freely admits his paunchy belly and bushy-black chest don't qualify him as typical male-model material.

But the man from Langford has gained international exposure after a daring series of boudoir birthday poses landed him a role in an anti-image advertising campaign with American Eagle.

It started as a husband's private birthday gag for his wife Amanda and resulted in him playing a feature role in an ad campaign supporting underwear for regular people, Williams says.

It has also been a huge confidence boost for the 29-year-old father, who says he hasn't always had the strongest body image but is completely comfortable lounging at home in his briefs.

"This has actually improved my self esteem," says Williams in a bedroom interview at his suburban Victoria home, wearing only his underpants. "Not so much that I think I look better on the whole, but I think it's more that I don't have to be concerned about my flaws as much."

The would-be professional golfer who earns a living playing online poker says he flew to Los Angeles last month for a photo shoot with the U.S.-based clothing chain for the launch of its (fictitious) Aerie line of comfortable underwear.

Williams, who says he's a practical joker and not an actor, played a character named Doug in the ad.

"Oh yeah, I've always liked being in my underwear," Williams says in the ad while sitting on a couch in nothing but underwear. "It makes me feel more free."

While the line of underwear was a hoax, the brand says the ad's message is real — that men should accept their bodies.

Williams knew from the beginning the ad was a gag but it was clear to him American Eagle was sincere about the faux campaign's body-positive message.

There are three other underwear-clad men and a woman in the ad. Each character talks about being comfortable with themselves while doing house and yard chores.

Williams bends to touch his toes in one scene, and the word Flexy is written on the rear of his white briefs.

"Healthy body image to me is loving who you are," he says in the ad. "The real you is sexy."

He auditioned for the ad over Skype.

"I told them I'm not an actor, I don't know what I'm doing," Williams says. "I was really uncomfortable but I got the job done. And now to be in an actual underwear commercial and see that it's been in Times Square, it seems fake really. It doesn't seem real."

His underwear adventure started with a joke for his wife's birthday, giving her a set of campy boudoir photos.

The pictures show him relaxing on a bed, stretching in a bubble bath and gazing into the distance out of a window.

But it backfired because his wife loved the gift and the photos created a sensation online. THE CANADIAN PRESS

“
I don't think I have the greatest body in the world, obviously, but this has made me go a little bit easier on myself.
Brendon Williams

Brendon Williams, the everyday guy whose underwear modelling has made him a star, at home in Victoria on Thursday. CHAD HIPOLITO/THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Big bucks not a road to victory

EXPENSES

Money doesn't guarantee election results, analysis shows

Money can't buy you votes.

Or so it would seem, according to campaign financial reports filed with Elections Canada by the men and women who were seeking a House of Commons seat in last fall's federal election.

More often than not, the biggest spenders did not win on Oct. 19, an analysis by The Canadian Press indicates.

And while spending big bucks didn't necessarily guarantee victory, not spending enough to at least stay competitive with rival candidates was an almost certain path to defeat, the analysis shows.

Of the top 100 spenders in the election, 57 failed in their election bids, with 12 of those losing to a competitor who also cracked the top 100.

The results among the top 50 spenders were even worse, with about three-fifths of them — 31 candidates in all — running unsuccessfully. Of those, six lost to another candidate in the top 50.

The analysis is based on expenses reported by candidates that counted as part of their legal spending limits. It did not include personal and other expenses — like gas and mileage for a personal vehicle, child care or thank-you receptions for volunteers — which must be reported to Elections Canada but don't count against the spending cap.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau at Liberal party headquarters in Montreal after winning the election. An analysis shows that the biggest spenders did not win on Oct. 19. THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

The analysis may help explain why the marathon 11-week campaign came down to a battle between the better-resourced Liberals and Conservatives, with the NDP and Greens squeezed out.

On average, Conservative candidates spent $90,665, outpacing the average $71,660 spent by Liberals. The average New Democrat candidate spent just $54,404 while the average Green spent a measly $12,642.

University of Manitoba political scientist Royce Koop said there's no doubt money can help a candidate win, particularly in a close-fought riding.

"If you run a good campaign, well-funded campaign, well-staffed, you're going to be able to get just ahead of your opponent and it turns out Canadian elections are getting more competitive. We're seeing more of these competitive races, so the importance of local campaigns and local spending and local campaign workers has become more important," Koop said.

Candidate spending limits for the 2015 campaign varied from riding to riding, based on geographic size and population — from a high of $279,227 in Kootenay-Columbia to a low of $169,928 in Egmont. Under new election rules imposed by the previous Conservative government, the spending caps for the lengthy campaign were more than twice what they would have been for a more typical five-week federal contest.

That was widely seen as benefiting the Conservatives, whose riding associations across the country had amassed much deeper war chests.

Yet the analysis of the more than 1,500 candidate spending reports filed thus far suggests few took advantage of the increased limits.

Combined, candidates for the Liberals, Conservatives, NDP and Greens — the parties which ran full or nearly full slates in all 338 ridings across the country — were entitled to spend $296 million. Yet their actual spending fell far short: just under $63.1 million in total. THE CANADIAN PRESS

90,665
Average expenses, subject to spending limits, by Conservative candidates

71,660
Average expenses, subject to spending limits, by Liberal candidates

54,404
Average expenses, subject to spending limits, by NDP candidates

9.6M
Total amount of personal or other expenses that didn't count as part of the spending limits, reported by Liberal, Conservative, NDP and Green candidates

2.96
Lowest amount expensed by any candidate who filed with Elections Canada by Conrad Lukawski of the Rhinoceros Party in Ottawa Centre

ONLINE

Refugees search for sponsors

Muneer al Zahabi had been in Jordan for nearly three years among over half a million Syrians there crammed into apartments and camps. It was safer than sleeping in the bathtub in their house in Syria for protection from missiles.

They wanted a home in another country. But his family is five of 4.2 million refugees.

So Zahabi took things into his own hands. On the Immigration Department website, he found the list of more than 80 organizations who hold agreements with the government to facilitate the private sponsorship of refugees. And he started emailing them.

Then the Liberals were elected and promised to resettle 25,000 Syrians. Private groups working with the formal sponsorship agreement holders started springing up across the country. So Zahabi looked them up, posting his story on their Facebook pages and directly emailing the websites of others. The response was often similar — disbelief, mistrust. But late last year, something clicked.

Patricia Chartier had helped set up the email address for her Toronto-based sponsorship group. She was shocked by how many letters came directly from Syrians.

Among the emails was Zahabi's. Something drew her in, and she began trying to find someone who would sponsor his family. Zahabi does not want to get his hopes up too high. But at least someone was finally willing to listen, he said, and in Chartier, he now has a Canadian friend.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

NEWFOUNDLAND

Woman injured in plunge over cliff

A 20-year-old woman whose car plunged down iconic Signal Hill in St. John's jumped or was ejected just before it crashed partway down a rocky cliff Sunday high over the Atlantic Ocean.

St. John's platoon fire chief Rick Mackey said the woman somehow breached the gate at the popular national historic site around 8 a.m.

Mackey said the woman was either thrown or jumped from the vehicle as it nosedived over the wind-swept rock face just below Cabot Tower, coming to rest about 90 metres down the 250-metre cliff.

"As you can imagine, that was a bit of a new one for us," said Mackey, who has been a firefighter for 30 years. "I've never seen anything like that before."

Mackey said the woman, the car's only occupant, landed roughly 45 metres down the cliff face and was rescued by emergency crews within about 20 minutes. She was taken to hospital with serious injuries.

One woman was taken to hospital after a dramatic crash on Signal Hill on Sunday. KEITH GOSSE/ST.JOHN'S EVENING TELEGRAM/THE CANADIAN PRESS

"I can't even speculate on how or why she managed to be up there," said Mackey, adding that the investigation is ongoing.

Royal Newfoundland Constabulary spokesman Const. Geoff Higdon said no foul play is suspected. He said the woman's identity is not being released at this time.

Higdon said the car was in an area closed to traffic. A wooden gate down an access road below Cabot Tower was open Sunday afternoon and appeared to have been damaged.

Mackey said the badly-damaged Toyota Echo, which was teetering on the rocks in 100 km/h winds, has also been recovered. He said crews consulted with Parks Canada and made removing the car a priority.

"Because of the precarious position of the vehicle and all the hiking trails that are well-used up there, we needed to make sure that nobody would walk underneath the area that the car was perched," said Mackey.

"The winds were actually making the car move and it could have easily kept sliding down and it wouldn't have stopped until it went into the harbour."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

RISING COSTS

Rural areas struggle to fund policing

Smaller communities across the country have been grappling with what they view as an ever-increasing tax bite for policing they can barely afford.

Some say they have had to raise property taxes by as much as 20 to 30 per cent to pay for increases in police costs.

Christian Leuprecht, a professor at the Royal Military College of Canada who has studied the issue, said rising security costs are hurting communities across Canada.

"The real problem is in the rural areas," Leuprecht said. "Their tax base is stagnant. They're cannibalizing all other aspects of their budget to pay for policing."

Some communities, with their limited tax bases, are seeing upwards of 25 or 30 per cent of their total budgets go toward policing.

One hard-hit area is in rural eastern Ontario, where communities were surprised to discover they're paying tens of thousands of dollars for police service to wind turbines and cellphone towers.

The issue is especially galling, said one mayor, given his municipality's embrace of green energy.

"We've got 86 of them here so it's big numbers," said Denis Doyle, mayor of Frontenac Islands, population 2,000.

"We went out of our way to support the windmill rollout and now we feel like we've been kicked in the teeth."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

DEPORTATION OF MIGRANTS TO BEGIN A Syrian refugee holds a child carrying a placard reading "we ask the EU governments to help us," and a distressing claim, as refugees and migrants protest on Sunday. An agreement between the European Union and Turkey to deport migrants on Greek islands back to the Turkish mainland takes effect Monday morning. Migrants arriving in Greece will be sent to Turkey if they don't apply for asylum. For every person sent back, the EU would take in one person with a legitimate asylum request. AFP/GETTY IMAGES & THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Data released on offshore accounts

PANAMA PAPERS

Records detail holdings of world leaders and others

An international coalition of media outlets on Sunday published what it said was an extensive investigation into the offshore financial dealings of the rich and famous, based on a vast trove of documents provided by an anonymous source.

The International Consortium of Investigative Journalism, a non-profit organization based in Washington, said the cache of 11.5 million records detailed the offshore holdings of a dozen current and former world leaders, as well as businessmen, criminals, celebrities and sports stars.

The Associated Press wasn't immediately able to verify the allegations made in articles that were published by the more than 100 news organizations around the world involved in the investigation.

However, the German newspaper Sueddeutsche Zeitung, which first received the data more than a year ago, said it was confident the material was genuine.

The Munich-based daily was offered the data through an encrypted channel by an anonymous source, said Bastian Obermayer, a reporter for the paper.

The data concerned internal documents from a Panama-based law firm, Mossack Fonseca. Founded by German-born Juergen Mossack, the firm has offices across the globe and is among the world's biggest creators of shell companies, the newspaper said.

ICIJ said the law firm's leaked internal files contain information on 214,488 offshore entities connected to people in more than 200 countries and territories.

Obermayer said that over the course of several months Sueddeutsche Zeitung received about 2.6 terabytes of data — more than would fit on 600 DVDs.

The newspaper and its partners verified the authenticity of the data by comparing it to public registers, witness testimony and court rulings, he told the AP. A previous cache of Mossack Fonseca documents obtained by German authorities was also used to verify the new material, Obermayer added.

Among the countries with past or present political figures named in the reports are Iceland, Ukraine, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Russia.

The ICIJ said the documents included emails, financial spreadsheets, passports and corporate records detailing how powerful figures used banks, law firms and offshore shell companies to hide their assets. The data spanned a time frame of nearly 40 years, from 1977 through the end of 2015, it said. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LEAK

According to the media group's website, global banks including HSBC, UBS, Credit Suisse, Deutsche Bank and others have worked with Mossack Fonseca to create offshore accounts.

IN BRIEF

After Palmyra, Syrian troops take another Daesh-controlled town

A week after taking back the historic town of Palmyra, Syrian troops and their allies on Sunday captured another town controlled by Daesh in central Syria, state media reported.

The push into the town of Qaryatain took place under the cover of Russian airstrikes and dealt another setback to Daesh extremists in Syria.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Rain, floods kill 45 in northwest Pakistan

Flash floods triggered by torrential rains Sunday killed at least 45 people in northwest Pakistan, officials said.

Rains started overnight Saturday and caused flash flooding in several districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, said a Pakistani national disaster management official, Latif ur Rehman. Another 34 people were admitted to hospitals with injuries, he said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BRUSSELS

Airport rebounds after violent attacks

It was an emotional send-off on Sunday for a Brussels Airlines plane heading to the Portuguese city of Faro — the first passenger flight to take off from Brussels Airport since suicide bombings on March 22 ripped through its check-in counters and killed 16 people.

Airport officials suggested the first flight out was a symbolic victory over those who sowed death and hate, but said it would be months until full service is back.

Security at the airport was tight with new check-in procedures for passengers in temporary structures.

Two other planes were leaving Sunday — Brussels Airlines flights to Athens and Turin, Italy. The three flights were a test run for a European aviation hub that used to handle 600 flights a day and plans to slowly climb back to normal capacity.

Arnaud Feist, the CEO of Brussels Airport Co., said at a Saturday news conference that the three flights were a "sign of hope" following "the darkest days in the history of aviation in Belgium."

On Sunday, he thanked employees for their courage, solidarity and the "impressive work carried out in so little time."

"We are more than an airport ... We are a family more bound together than ever," he said.

Damage was extensive when double suicide bombs exploded near its crowded check-in counters 12 days ago, killing 16 and maiming people from around the world. Another bombing that day on a Brussels subway train killed 16 other people. Both attacks were claimed by Daesh.

> **It will take time to accept what happened and more time to get over the pain.**
> Arnaud Feist

Feist said Belgium's biggest airport would gradually climb to 20 per cent of capacity in the coming days, able to process 800 passengers an hour — maximum capacity for the temporary structures. He said Saturday that he hoped full service at the airport could be restored by the end of June or beginning of July, in time for the summer vacation season.

"This is a very symbolic, also a very emotional moment for the airport community," airport president Marc Descheemaecker said. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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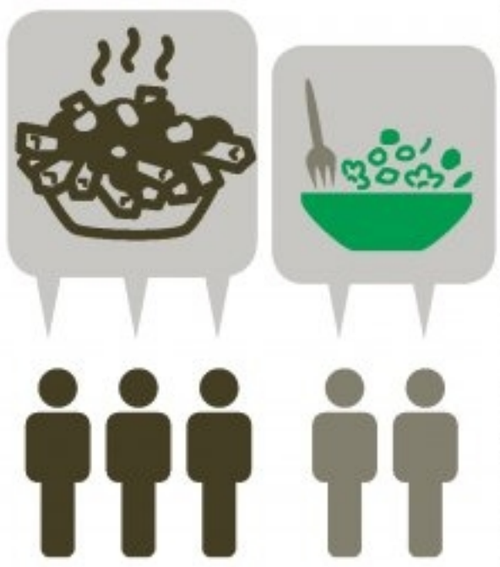
Canadians' food woes

Matt Kieltyka
Metro | Vancouver

Fifty-seven per cent of people across Canada believe it's become more difficult to afford food and feed their families within the last year. Here are some of their concerns.

More than half of all Canadians say it's become more difficult to afford to feed their households in the last year. Just 4 per cent say it's easier



In addition to switching to cheaper brands when shopping (71%), two-in-five (40%) say they've been choosing less healthy options in the aisle

Two-in-three Canadians (63%) say rising food prices haven't been receiving enough attention from Canada's leaders, and more than half (53%) say the issue is "one of the most important" facing the country today

GRAPHIC BY ANDRES PLANA

INTERNET

B.C. tech firm guards against online trolls

As online communities come under the attack of cyberbullies, racist speech and spam, a British Columbia tech firm has developed technology to keep the trolls under the bridge.

Community Sift, based in Kelowna, has built digital armour for social media and gaming companies trying to protect their virtual worlds. The chat filter and moderation tool examines real-time website commentary, chat room conversations and banter between game players.

"We're not just talking about four-letter words," said CEO Chris Priebe, a senior programmer and security specialist. "We want to get rid of bullying across the entire Internet."

The firm's technology advances a global campaign against digital abuse in part spurred by the 2012 suicide of Amanda Todd, a teenager from Port Coquitlam, B.C., who was victimized by online sexual exploitation.

"The Amanda Todds of the world, we want to prevent that," said Karen Olsson, the firm's chief operating officer. "We want to be part of the solution."

CEO Chris Priebe and COO Karen Olsson THE CANADIAN PRESS

Based on the firm's analysis of four billion messages sorted daily, less than one per cent of social users behave badly yet they're causing the bulk of harm. THE CANADIAN PRESS

HAIR LOSS?

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metro VIEWS
Your essential daily news
Monday, April 4, 2016

ROSEMARY WESTWOOD
ON A SUDDEN VICTORY FOR ABORTION RIGHTS

Last Thursday came the amazing announcement from P.E.I.'s premier that decades of anti-abortion policies in the province were over — a truly stunning about-face for a province that has long tied itself in knots to placate pro-life voices.

In the end, abortion access in P.E.I. came down to the threat of a lawsuit.

For years, the province's Liberal government had been arguing it was doing right by women, offering to pay for them to have elective abortions at one of two pre-approved hospitals in other provinces. Travel and food costs? Not covered. Never mind lost wages or childcare.

In a stance that hadn't changed (no matter the political stripes of the ruling party) since 1988, when the Supreme Court struck down Canada's abortion law, P.E.I. has been governed by the contrarian Resolution 17. It states "life begins at conception, and any policy that permits abortion is unacceptable" (though it does allow abortions when the mother's life is at risk).

The lawsuit, announced in January and viewed by some as a last-ditch effort, claimed that all this violated P.E.I. women's charter rights. It was expected to drag on for years and run up a $100,000 bill.

But then, last Thursday, came the rather amazing announcement from P.E.I.'s premier that decades of anti-abortion policies in the province were over.

Amazing because the last safe, elective, in-province abortion occurred in 1982. Amazing because a decades-long fight ended with a sudden government announcement.

"Based on legal advice that current policies regarding access to in-province abortion services would likely be in violation of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, government determined that the most responsible approach is to revise the policy rather than embark on a long and costly court case," Premier Wade MacLauchlan said. In other words: "Uncle." Just like that.

And in the nick of time: The province had until next Friday to respond to the lawsuit's allegations. The premier himself admitted the suit had forced the government's hand. Abortion access could be up and running by the end of the year, he said.

SAYING 'UNCLE' P.E.I. Premier Wade MacLauchlan announced his government will not fight a legal challenge launched by the group Abortion Access Now JOHN MORRIS/THE CANADIAN PRESS

It is a truly stunning about-face for a province that has long tied itself in knots to placate pro-life voices. It did not offer in-province abortions when Health P.E.I.'s own investigation showed such a move would save money, in 2013. It did not agree to in-province abortions when a Washington-based organization offered to ship in doctors to perform them, in 2014. It did not offer in-province abortions when a 2014 research study found the province's system was harmful to women.

But that research would greatly inform the lawsuit. And the lawsuit would break the camel's back.

Colleen MacQuarrie, an associate professor of psychology at the University of Prince Edward Island, was a teenager when the last elective abortion was performed. She remembers "a very rancorous public campaign of shaming women and eradicating access to safe abortions."

Rancorous, and effective.

But while MacQuarrie has been a feminist activist for years, it wasn't until 2010 that she began to focus on abortion in earnest. She created a community-based research project to investigate the impact of P.E.I's abortion policies over the last 20 years.

She had waited until she had tenure, so that she'd be protected from any political blowback in a fight that she by then understood was political at heart.

That year, 2010, the province created Health P.E.I., a single body responsible for all publicly funded health-care services on the island. Decades earlier, individual "therapeutic abortion committees" at various P.E.I. hospitals had been disbanded under pressure from pro-life groups. But Health P.E.I offered a new, single and effective target for abortion-rights activism.

MacQuarrie describes a swell of community support for her research, which spawned Abortion Access Now PEI, the group that brought the lawsuit, with the support of the national women's-rights non-profit Women's Legal Education and Action Fund (LEAF).

Via interviews, including with two dozen women who had sought abortions, the study revealed that women found the system needlessly complicated and "intensely punishing." Some women were blocked outright from getting abortions, "others self-induced through painful procedures at home," according to a summary of the findings.

"The lawyers drew extensively on the work in the community" to build their case, MacQuarrie said. Her research became legal evidence. And that evidence was so convincing that P.E.I. balked at challenging it in court.

Which means, in the end, it came down to women's voices, carefully collected, forcefully broadcast. "More than once they said, 'I've never told anyone and I'm only telling you this now so it will change for the next woman,'" MacQuarrie said.

P.E.I. had "callously compromised women's health for political expediency," MacQuarrie said, showing it didn't "give a care" about the women's experiences and suffering. But the broad-based and rowing abortion-rights activists on P.E.I. had a single, clearly definable goal. They pursued it doggedly.

And while it seems uncanny, on some level, that such a fierce battle could end with such a simple white flag, it is also instructive. You can lose for decades, and then, spectacularly: You win.

In the end, it came down to women's voices, carefully collected, forcefully broadcast.

Catherine McKenna's candid talk on carbon is blunt for a politician

Tim Harper

You can leaf through a calendar and point to a number of spots where a Liberal government seemingly on cruise control is heading for some heavy weather.

You can choose assisted suicide or electoral reform or the future of health care — but if you bet on a national carbon pricing regime and a battle over a pipeline heading east from Alberta as the toughest challenges in the near-term you would probably win a few bucks.

Catherine McKenna, the federal environment minister, made that clear at the just-concluded Broadbent Institute's Progress Summit where she delivered the type of blunt talk one doesn't come to expect from politicians.

She sat on a panel with two other women — and that in itself was both notable and positive. Alberta environment minister Shannon Phillips and Vancouver city councillor Andrea Reimer joined her and they all spoke of collaboration, respectful discussion and "tantrum-free zones" as the way ahead on climate change.

But Phillips reminded the Ottawa crowd that people are hurting in her province, that $10 billion in royalty revenues have disappeared, that good-paying oilpatch jobs are gone, that homes and vehicles are being lost, that domestic violence is rising and charitable donations are down.

McKenna wants to lead the transition to a low-carbon economy, but she is dealing with diverse provincial economies, raw political sensibilities and those in the oilpatch who are not just hurting economically but are starting to believe this Liberal government would just as soon leave the bitumen in the ground and move ahead without them.

"I'm a realist on this. There are a lot of people who have lost jobs in Alberta," McKenna said. "That doesn't mean we destroy our planet, but we need to be thoughtful of how we move forward."

And she also realistically told the audience that there are still many Canadians who don't see climate change as a threat.

The federal government is the regulator and it can impose its carbon will on the provinces, but bringing the federal hammer down is a great way to split the country, McKenna knows.

"If we do something overnight that has a huge, immediate dislocating effect on the economy where tons of people lose jobs, I'm losing everyone. I'm losing them," she said.

And she acknowledged the political dynamite her government is handling.

"I get nervous about the way the conversations sometimes go, that it's east versus west," she said. "There will be hard conversations."

Here's hoping they are also "tantrum-free."

Tim Harper is a national affairs columnist for the Toronto Star.

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When the moment's expected

BIG WINNER

The Weeknd takes home five trophies at Juno Awards

Aaron Chatha
Metro | Calgary

As far as weekends go, the Weeknd had a great one.

The Ontario-born performer, pictured below, took home five Juno Awards, including single of the year and album of the year.

Though he's notoriously media-shy — he didn't even show up at the Saturday night gala where he won his first three awards, and declined to speak to press during the broadcast awards on Sunday — Abel Tesfaye's fans couldn't be silenced.

Waves of applause followed his acceptance speeches and mid-show performance, where he sang a medley of Acquainted and Might Not for the first time on television.

The crowd's enthusiasm was apparent during the night, but especially during newcomer Alessia Cara's performance of her hit single Here. The 19-year-old performed the song amid a tableau of performers set against the tepid house party described in her lyrics.

Cara took home the breakthrough artist of the year award.

Alessia Cara performs at the Juno Awards In Calgary. ALL PHOTOS: CANDICE WARD/FOR METRO

Of the nominees, which included Scott Helman and Francesco Yates, Cara was the most searched name on Google in the past year. Following her win that number increased by eight times. She entered the press room backstage with a nervous energy, laughing off the fact she couldn't hear reporter questions as a marching band decided to play at just that moment.

"I still feel nervous, and I'm so sweaty," she laughed, pointing out this is the first award acceptance speech she's every made.

"It's insane. It doesn't feel like it's real, I was telling my mom, it doesn't feel like it's happening."

It looked like Cara would have to share the limelight though — specifically with Walk Off the Earth, which won group of the year and brought a band member's son onstage.

The little boy, Giorgio, was sporting pink and orange ear buds, presumably because the venue was so loud.

Country album of the year, was presented by rapper Kardinal Offishall and Indian-Canadian comedian Jus Reign, who made light of the fact they knew little about country music.

The award was won by Dean Brody for Gypsy Road. The self-described quiet guy found himself talking quite a bit after accepting his award on stage.

"I think adrenalin has a lot to do with it, your heart's going wha-bum-bum-bum-bum," he laughed. "I don't have a lot to say on any different day."

The award show packed the Scotiabank Saddledome. More than 12,000 tickets were sold.

WINNERS

Many of the awards were handed out at a Junos Gala Saturday night.

- Justin Bieber took pop album of the year for Purpose and Drake won rap recording of the year for If You're Reading This It's Too Late.
- Death from Above 1979 won rock album of the year for The Physical World, the band's first studio release in a decade after breaking up for several years.
- Cree singer/songwriter Buffy Sainte-Marie's latest Power in the Blood claimed two awards for aboriginal album and contemporary roots album of the year.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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PCTIA REGISTERED

Now that Annick is consumer-debt free, will she make good money choices? **Metro's finance guru Lesley-Anne Scorgie** has only a few weeks left to hammer home the financial wisdom she's trying to share with Annick and Yolanda.

Annick crushes consumer debt

LESLEY-ANNE SCORGIE
metromoney

THE CHALLENGE: Annick, 24 and from Calgary and Yolanda, 27 and from Mississauga, have only two weeks left in Metro's 12-week financial Makeover. Financial guru Lesley-Anne Scorgie is helping these women break bad financial habits, eliminate their debt and start saving and investing for the future. Can these young women reach their net worth goals (assets minus liabilities)? Follow us @LesleyScorgie #MetroMoneyMakeover

THIS WEEK: Annick finally gets a financial break. Unlike previous years in which she's had to pay Canada Revenue Agency, after filing her taxes for 2015, she's received a sizable refund.

NEXT WEEK: Yolanda and Annick have overhauled their finances, but has it been enough to steer their financial ships in a better direction? We're going to showcase their money milestones and identify financial pitfalls they'll need to avoid as we conclude the Metro Money Makeover

Annick is all smiles after decimating her consumer debt. JENNIFER FRIESEN/METRO CALGARY

THE SITUATION

It's almost enough to bring someone to tears — the day they become debt free. Minus her student loan, that happened for Annick late last week!

She's been lugging around thousands of dollars in loans and credit card balances for years due to the high costs of her education, setting up her home here in Canada (she's originally from the Democratic Republic of Congo), a few too many splurges on shoes and concert tickets (Beyoncé being the latest), and dealing with Alberta's rotten economy.

H&R Block's Caroline Battista agreed to meet with Annick about her taxes a few weeks ago and quickly uncovered unused tuition credits from 2012. When combined with her contributions to her group RRSP through work and other applicable tax credits, a refund of $2,780 was issued to Annick. The government immediately clawed back $280 of the refund because of last year's taxes owing. But with the remaining $2,500, Annick hasn't wasted a single moment. She's paid off her credit card balances of $1,675 and other loans totalling $350. This has left her with $475 from which she can apply the one third rule: 1/3 to savings, 1/3 to her student loan and 1/3 to spend how she wishes.

THE LESSON

The moment a person becomes consumer debt-free, their monthly cash flow transforms. In Annick's case, she was ploughing $750 to $900 per month towards her debts and now she can use that money towards other goals such as building a down payment for her first home or eventually returning to school to complete graduate studies in business. Rather than waking up with the weight of financial worry on her chest, she can start dreaming about her future.

The next three months will be critical for Annick. The temptation to spend her newfound cash flow is huge. It's generally the period of time in which a person either reverts back to old, and unhealthy, financial habits, or they learn the lessons permanently and never return.

The unknown for Annick is whether she's suffered enough financial hardship to learn that financial freedom only comes to those who are willing to work for it and to those who don't repeat the same financial mistakes.

$ NET WORTH

Assets	Dec.	April
RRSP	350	1,000
Total Assets		**$1,000**
Liabilities		
Student Loan	58,800	58,200
Visa	1,500	0
MasterCard	650	0
Other Loans	1,600	0
Taxes	250	0
Total Liabilities		**($58,200)**
Net worth		**($57,200)**

LESLEY-ANNE SCORGIE IS A BESTSELLING AUTHOR AND FOUNDER OF MEVEST, A MONEY COACHING SERVICE FOR CANADIANS. FOLLOW HER @LESLEYSCORGIE

There are hidden costs to home ownership

Your mortgage payment is far from your only expense when owning a home. ISTOCK

PROS AND CONS

Dispelling the myth that renters are wasting money

Gail Vaz-Oxlade
For Metro Life

Home ownership may have been sold as the Canadian dream, but it's not for everyone.

So how do you know if ownership is the thing for you or if renting will serve your needs the best? First, have you got the cash flow to make home ownership work?

When people say that home ownership costs the same as renting they're talking out their hats.

I live in a fully-paid-for home and it cost me $1,400 a month to carry my house in 2015.

There are property taxes, insurance, utilities and maintenance. Ah, maintenance, the part of the equation everyone wants to sweep under the rug. But if you do, you shouldn't be surprised when your most expensive indulgence comes tumbling down around your ears.

Do the math:

1. Figure out what you'd likely spend to buy a place of your own.
2. Calculate the mortgage payment.
3. Add in the property taxes (monthly, you can estimate $400), utilities (need an estimate? Try $250/mo.), property insurance (I pay about $120/month) and maintenance (estimate $400/month for now, it probably needs to be more, but that's a start). That's what it'll cost you to carry your new home.
4. Subtract the rent you're currently paying and put the difference into a high-interest savings account every single month.

If you can do that without missing a step — and that means not using your credit card or line of credit or overdraft protection to fill the gap — then you're ready to start planning for home ownership.

If not, keep renting. Next, think about whether you want to put down roots or like being able to pick up and go when the opportunity arises. Is relocating for work a thing you'd consider? If so, the costs of buying and selling may be prohibitive.

The sales commission, closing costs, legal fees and land transfer taxes can wipe out any equity you've built up, assuming the market has been going up in your area.

And if the market has taken a turn for the worse just when you're pulling up roots, you'll have to swallow the loss.

It's time to stop thinking that people who don't have home ownership as a goal are lacking in ambition, unmotivated, or lower than the belly of a snake. Sure, home ownership works for some people. For others, it doesn't, plain and simple.

For more money advice, visit Gail's website at gailvazoxlade.com

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IN BRIEF

'BUBBLES' ACTOR CHARGED

Lucy DeCoutere. CHRIS YOUNG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Trailer Park boys actor leaves after co-star accused of assault

Actor Lucy DeCoutere says she has resigned from the Trailer Park Boys just hours after one of its principal actors denied assaulting a woman in the U.S.

DeCoutere, who co-stars in the show, testified against Jian Ghomeshi in the former CBC host's highly publicized sexual assault trial.

Mike Smith, known for playing Bubbles on the cult comedy show, was charged with a misdemeanour in Los Angeles on Friday.

Posts on DeCoutere's Twitter account said she was resigning from the show, saying it was linked with the allegation against Smith, adding she had spoken with both her co-star and the alleged victim.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

JOHANNA SCHNELLER
WHAT I'M WATCHING

A brilliant combo of murder and humour

THE SHOW: American Crime Story: The People v. O.J. Simpson, Season 1, Episode 9 (FX)
THE MOMENT: The would-be screenwriter

A dozen high-priced attorneys for accused murderer O.J. Simpson sit at a conference table discussing new evidence: A woman in North Carolina has interview tapes of L.A. police detective Mark Fuhrman making racist remarks.

"Why didn't she sell them to the media?" asks Robert Shapiro (John Travolta).

"She'd rather sell her screenplay," replies Robert Kardashian (David Schwimmer). "She's a wannabe screenwriter. She couldn't make a living in L.A., so she moved to North Carolina to teach screenwriting."

"I don't understand," says Barry Scheck (Rob Morrow), the only out-of-towner. "How can you teach screenwriting if you can't sell a script?"

The camera swoops up to look down on the whole table, as everyone answers his question at once: "Ah, come on, happens all the time," etc.

This moment filled me with cackling delight. A Hollywood punchline, in the middle of a deadly serious development — that is the kind of brilliance this show delivers week after week.

The scene is both a private joke for real screenwriters, and a piece of biting commentary: Everyone wants what L.A. offers, even if they have to move somewhere else to imitate it.

Similarly, this series is both a thoroughly reported account of the Simpson trial, and a contemporary everystory about how our stubborn opinions and reverence for fame willingly blind us to facts. (Donald Trump, anyone?).

Sadly, the last episode airs Tuesday. I'm going to miss it like a person.

Johanna Schneller is a media connoisseur who zeroes in on pop-culture moments. She appears Monday through Thursday.

David Schwimmer as Robert Kardashian. CONTRIBUTED

Netflix to crack down on pirates

STREAMING

Third-party firm may target virtual private networks

Netflix is tired of scofflaws streaming its original shows, such as Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt, for free. ERIC LIEBOWITZ/NETFLIX

Canadian Netflix subscribers are the only ones who can't peek into the halls of Degrassi: Next Class. Viewers in Africa and Turkey can't see how the prisoners at Litchfield penitentiary are faring in Orange is the New Black.

Not all Netflix libraries were created equal due to international copyright and content licensing restrictions.

Some web-savvy folks have overcome those obstacles by streaming pirated content for free or using a virtual private network (VPN) to trick Netflix into streaming the shows and movies available in another country.

But it seems Netflix is tired of it. The company is cracking down on piracy and digital border hopping amid a global expansion that only omits China, Syria and Crimea.

Netflix has reportedly hired Vobile Inc., a company that helps firms protect their original content on the web, to tackle its piracy woes.

Over roughly the past four months, Vobile filed more than 350 takedown notices to Google, according to Lumen, a Harvard University Berkman Center for Internet and Society project studying online content takedown requests. The notices ask Google to remove the suspected URLs from its search results.

These requests pinpointed more than 96,000 URLs, according to Google's transparency report, many of which host streams to Netflix's original shows like House of Cards. Vobile did not respond to request for comment. But both Lumen and Google connect Vobile to the copyright owner Netflix2.

The company also seems to have stepped up its efforts to prevent customers from using VPNs.

"In coming weeks, those using proxies and unblockers will only be able to access the service in the country where they currently are," David Fullagar, Netflix's vice-president of content delivery architecture, wrote in January.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

> **"In coming weeks, those using proxies and unblockers will only be able to access (Nextflix) from the country where they currently are.**
> David Fullager

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metro SPORT

North Carolina will look for its sixth NCAA title when the Tar Heels meet the Villanova Wildcats, trying for their second, on Monday night

Whitecaps left seeing red

MLS

Number of dismissals leading to dismal displays

Cam Tucker
Metro | Vancouver

Octavio Rivero and the 10-man Whitecaps settled for a 0-0 tie against the visiting Galaxy on Saturday. DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

There have been 16 players sent off for red cards early this MLS season, according to league statistics on Sunday. That list now includes Whitecaps midfielder Matias Laba, and the lofty number of ejections has players and coaches calling foul.

Laba was sent off before the 30-minute mark of Saturday's clash with the Los Angeles Galaxy, which finished in a scoreless draw, for what referee Jair Marrufo decided was a dangerous tackle. That reduced Vancouver's roster to 10 players for the remainder of the game.

The incident happened as Laba threw a tackle on L.A.'s Mike Magee, with the spikes from his right shoe pointed toward the Galaxy player as he entered the challenge.

Was it worthy of a red card?

Based on Carl Robinson's post-game comments, the Whitecaps plan to appeal the red card to Laba.

"There are too many red cards. Us, as a group of coaches, and the players in there are unsure. We've got one of the top midfield players in the league (who has) made a tackle and he's been sent off. I'm not sure why," said Robinson.

Galaxy coach Bruce Arena didn't speak out against the referee's decision in this case, saying he didn't see the tackle, but he took issue with the growing number of red cards across the league.

"It's ruining games," Arena said.

Should Laba have to serve the automatic one-game ban that accompanies a red card, he'd be the fourth Vancouver player in five games to sit out because of a suspension.

Two Whitecaps players — Christian Bolanos and Kianz Froese — have been suspended retroactively for what the league's disciplinary committee said were serious fouls, and striker Masato Kudo was banned one game for embellishment.

"I understand what they are trying to do, MLS, by protecting the players, but right now we are trying to take tackling out of the game," said Whitecaps goalkeeper David Ousted.

"That's not going to purify the game, it's not going to make any player good to look at. It is especially not going to evolve this league. I understand that the MLS wants to protect us, and that's a good thing, but it's misplaced once in a while."

IN BRIEF

Curry gets Warriors back on winning track at home

Stephen Curry scored 39 points and the Golden State Warriors bounced back from their first regular-season home loss in more than 14 months by beating the Portland Trail Blazers 136-111 on Sunday night to tie the mark for the second-most wins in a season.

Draymond Green added 22 points, 10 rebounds and 10 assists for his 13th triple-double, and Klay Thompson scored 21 for the Warriors, who matched the 1996-97 Chicago Bulls and 1971-72 Los Angeles Lakers with 69 wins. Golden State needs to win four of its final five games to break the record of 72 victories set by Chicago in 1995-96. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kaka's Orlando click into gear against Timbers

Brazil international Kaka had a goal and two assists in his season debut to lead Orlando City to a 4-1 win over the Portland Timbers in MLS on Sunday.

Kaka's free kick in the 13th minute was headed home by Seb Hines to give Orlando City a 1-0 lead.

Brek Shea doubled Orlando City's advantage in the 32nd minute, curving a shot past goalkeeper Adam Larsen Kwarasey for his first MLS goal in nearly four years.

Kaka then scored in the 48th minute for a 3-0 lead and Kevin Molino padded the lead in the 76th on a penalty kick.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NHL

Canucks streaking to a finish

It's eluded the Canucks all season. The three-game winning streak – a mysterious, so far unattainable accomplishment for this group.

The Canucks host the playoff-bound Los Angeles Kings on Monday at Rogers Arena, with one of their last opportunities to win three straight games this season. Only four games remain on their schedule.

In a back-to-back situation last week in San Jose and then Anaheim, the Canucks swept their Californian opponents, giving them two straight wins following a nine-game losing streak.

Yet a quick scan of the replies on social media to the Canucks verified Twitter account on Friday, and it seems the fan base is conflicted about these wins so late in the season.

In the span of two games, the Canucks moved from a tie at the bottom of the NHL's overall standings at 67 points to 26th in the league. And that small uptick in the standings is something fans hoping for a tank and the highest draft pick possible have actually taken issue with.

The Canucks should get Jake Virtanen back in the lineup after he served his two-game suspension for a late hit on San Jose Sharks defenceman Roman Polak last week.

Derek Dorsett, who had been dealing with an injury, could also return to the lineup Monday, although it will depend on how he is feeling prior to the game. CAM TUCKER/METRO

Emerson Etem scored the winner in Anaheim on Friday night. ALEX GALLARDO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Troy gives Jays a flying start

OPENING DAY

Tulo homers, Stroman goes eight strong in victory No. 1

SUNDAY At Tampa Bay

5	3
JAYS	RAYS

Marcus Stroman outpitched Chris Archer in his first opening day start, helping the Toronto Blue Jays begin defence of their first AL East title in 22 years with a 5-3 victory over the Tampa Bay Rays on Sunday.

Stroman allowed three runs and six hits over eight-plus innings for the Blue Jays, who won 93 games in 2015 before making a run to the AL Championship Series in their first playoff appearance since 1993.

Troy Tulowitzki hit the first home run of the 2016 MLB season, a two-run shot for Toronto. Edwin Encarnacion had two hits and drove in two runs after not having an at-bat in a major league exhibition all spring training because of injuries.

Marcus Stroman GETTY IMAGES

The Blue Jays, the highest-scoring team in the majors last year, struck quickly on Encarnacion's two-run single in the first.

Archer struck out a Rays opening-day record 12 in five innings. But Encarnacion got him early and Kevin Pillar added an RBI single in the fourth. The right-hander limited the Blue Jays to five hits, but walked three during a 107-pitch outing.

Evan Longoria had two hits and drove in Tampa Bay's first run with a third-inning single. Offseason acquisition Corey Dickerson added a solo homer off Stroman leading off the ninth and Kevin Kiermaier drove in the final run charged to the starter with a bloop single off Roberto Osuna.

Osuna got the last three outs for the save.

At 24 years, 338 days old, Stroman became the third-youngest pitcher to make an opening day start for the Blue Jays.

"I want to finish games. That's the mentality. That's the motto," Stroman said. "It didn't work out, but I look forward to getting out there the next time and going nine."

He earned the assignment after making just four starts, going 4-0 with a 1.67 ERA, in 2015, when he missed most of the season after undergoing surgery on his left knee during spring training.

"He competes as well as anybody I've ever seen," Tulowitzki said. "When Stro takes the mound, it's different. He raises the bar and makes you want to match his energy. Just the swag that he has is second to none, really."

Veteran knuckleballer R.A. Dickey starts the second game of a four-game series Monday. He was 11-11 with a 3.91 ERA in 2015.

Lefty Drew Smyly, 5-2 with, 3.11 ERA in 12 starts last season, starts Monday. He's 1-0 with a 1.10 ERA in five career appearances against Toronto.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Troy Tulowitzki hit the first home run of the Major League season Sunday. BRIAN BLANCO/GETTY IMAGES

MLB IN BRIEF

Royals survive Mets rally

The reigning champion Kansas City Royals picked up where they left off, beating Matt Harvey and the Mets 4-3 on Sunday in the first opening-day rematch of a World Series.

With runners at the corners in the ninth inning, All-Star closer Wade Davis struck out David Wright and Yoenis Cespedes to preserve the win.

Edinson Volquez allowed two hits and three walks over six scoreless innings. It wasn't until Joakim Soria came on in the eighth that New York rallied, scoring three times before falling just short.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Liriano powers Pirates

Francisco Liriano tied a Pirates opening day record by striking out 10 and singled home the first run of the 2016 Major League Baseball season for good measure, sending Pittsburgh past the St. Louis Cardinals 4-1 on Sunday.

His RBI hit in the second came off Cardinals ace Adam Wainwright.

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RECIPE Thai chicken curry

PHOTO: MAYA VISNYEI

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada

If you can get your hands on fish sauce, it really does make a difference in the depth of flavour in this (and many other) creamy, not-too-spicy curry.

Ready in
Prep time: 5 minutes
Cook time: 30 minutes

Ingredients
- 3 Tbsp vegetable or coconut oil
- 3 Tbsp curry paste
- Pinch ground cumin and ground coriander
- 1 1/2 cups (350 ml) coconut milk
- 1 1/2 lb (750g) chicken thighs or breasts, cut into chunks
- 2 Tbsp sugar
- 2 Tbsp fish sauce
- 1 Tbsp lime leaves (optional)
- 2 Tbsp peanut butter
- Pinch salt
- Fresh coriander, chopped
- Lime wedges, to serve

Directions

1. Heat the oil in a large frying pan. Fry the curry paste and spices for a couple of minutes

2. Add 1/3 of the coconut milk and reduce the heat. Add the chicken and stir until the spices and milk combine.

3. Add the remaining coconut milk then stir in the sugar, fish sauce and lime leaves. Bring the sauce to the boil, simmer for a few minutes then add the peanut butter and salt.

4. Simmer for 20 minutes. Garnish with the chopped coriander and serve with the lime wedges.

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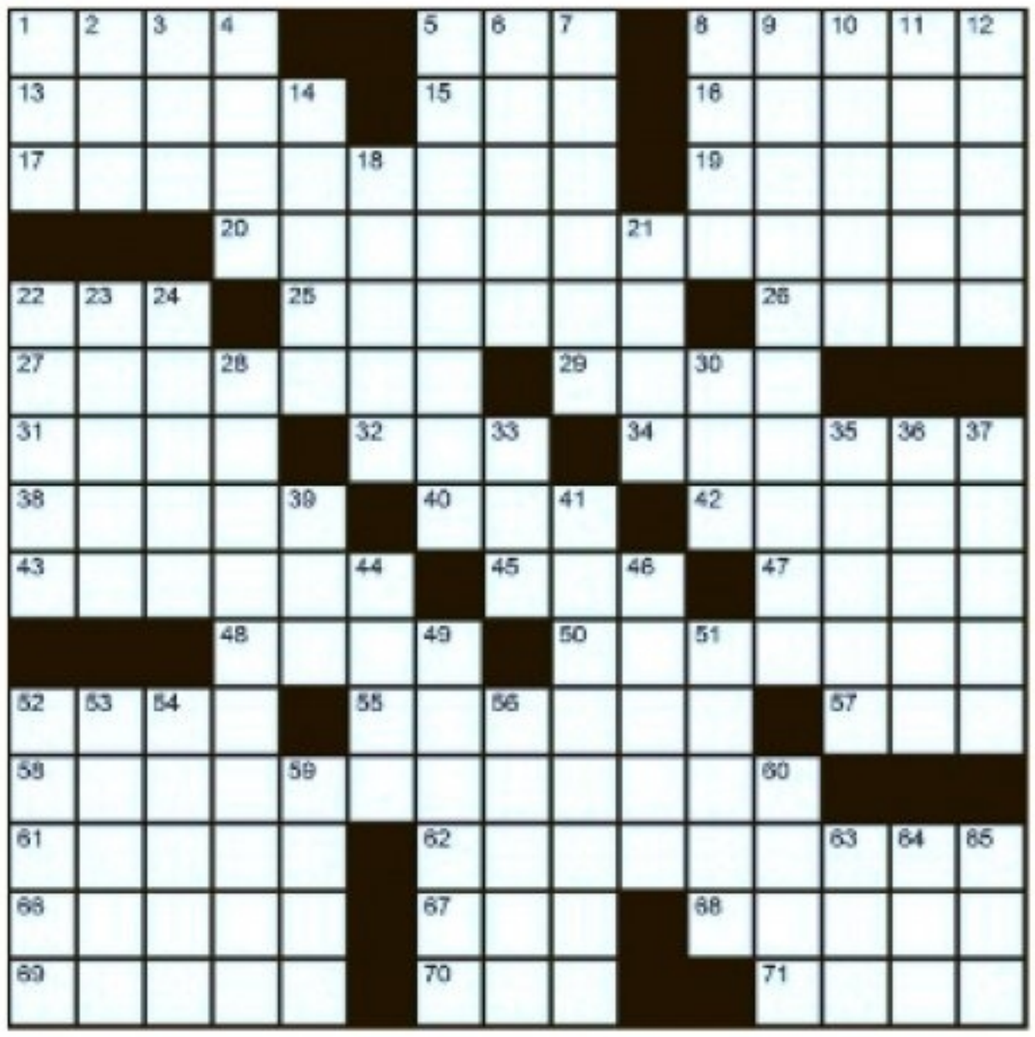
CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



ACROSS
1. Unfeeling
5. One of WWW's Ws
8. Ms. Bombeck's
13. Burning
15. Plastic __ Band
16. Pastoral print
17. Lululemon selections: 2 wds.
19. House of Henry VIII
20. Hotel casino in Las Vegas: 2 wds.
22. Word variety, briefly
25.British soap opera, to fans
26. "__ Rebel" by The Crystals
27. Disney 'work' song
29. Have __ '__' (Know 'somebody')
31. Earth goddess in Das Rheingold
32. Vienna is its cap.
34. Tip-offs
38. New World citizens, e.g.
40. Canuck band, __ 41
42. Contempt
43. "Zip-a-Dee-__-__"
45. __-Oil (Skin-care brand)
47. Bout ender, commonly
48. Old Testament bk.
50. "I Don't Feel Like Dancin'": __ Sisters hit
52. For instance, __ __ example
55. Wretched
57. Demolition blaster
58. Quebec headquarters of hardware chain Rona
61. Prefix to 'plasty' (Blood vessel procedure)
62. Band member's post-breakup venture: 2 wds.
66. Urals uh-uhs
67. __ out (Just manage)
68. Dainty denial
69. Screen legend Mr. Cooper's
70. Mr. Cruz
71. Gladiator's 1104

DOWN
1. Thwarter's vote
2. Martian's mini maneuveree
3. Aircraft in "Top Gun" (1986)
4. Talk big
5. Fantastic
6. Participate
7. __ and Herzegovina
8. Shakespeare: "__ __, Brute?"
9. Calgary __ (National Lacrosse League team)
10. Moose's girlfriend in Archie Comics
11. A Lesson from __ (Athol Fugard play)
12. Bed company
14. Era
18. 1973: "Elvis: __ from Hawaii"
21. "99 Luftballons" band
22. Out front
23. Skin doctor, fun-style
24. 'V' in VCR
28. Winnipeg neighbourhood; or, nickname of St. Catharines, Ontario: 2 wds.
30. French pronoun
33. Li'l long sandwich
35. Oven-made meal
36. See if the shirt is the right size: 2 wds.
37. Huff
39. Jazz instrument, commonly
41. Placed the 'Z' papers in the 'Y' folder
44. __ Sound (Fjordy locale on BC's coast northwest of Vancouver)
46. Eye-related prefix
49. Cape __, Nunavut
51. __ __ ease (Jittery)
52. Go out with __ __ (Depart with flair)
53. 1869: Character in War and Peace by Leo Tolstoy, __ Rostova
54. Boring tool
56. Conjure up
59. Brother on "Bonanza"
60. __ round (Tournament part)
63. Graduate's degree, e.g.
64. Single
65. Network in Dire Straits' "Money for Nothing"

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS Your daily horoscope by Francis Drake

Aries March 21 - April 20
Tread carefully today, because people are quarrelsome. Don't lose your temper or be self-indulgent with your emotions. Stay chill.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
Relations with a female friend or a member of a group are dicey today, because emotions are hot and unstable. Arguments will break out easily. Avoid important topics.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
Do not go toe to toe with an authority figure today, because you will regret it. Meanwhile, if someone overreacts with you, don't impulsively quit your day job. Be cool.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
Avoid controversial subjects like politics, religion and racial issues today, because people are quick to argue. You have to know when to hold and when to fold.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
Disputes about shared property, inheritances and financial issues are emotionally loaded today. Postpone these talks for another day.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Be patient with partners and close friends, because arguments can break out easily today. That's because the Moon is at odds with fiery Mars, and everyone is looking for a fight.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Relations with co-workers will be challenged today. You will be best off by keeping your head down and your powder dry.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Parents need to be patient with their kids today, because everyone is prickly and inclined to argue. It's good to know that patience is the antidote to anger.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
The Moon is at odds with Mars in your sign today, which means family arguments could break out, especially with females. This won't happen if you keep your breezy sense of humour.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Don't be quick to argue with others today, especially siblings, relatives and neighbors. Arguments over sales agreements and negotiations might occur. Stay chill.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
You might be distressed today about money or something you own, which could lead to an argument with someone. But will this solve anything? Try to relax.

Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
Today the Moon is in your sign at odds with Mars at the top of your chart, which is a sure indication of arguments with parents, bosses and VIPs.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

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	2					3		9
1			2		7		8	
		5		8		4		
3			4		5			7
		9		7		1		
	8		9		3			1
4		6					5	
	1			6		2		

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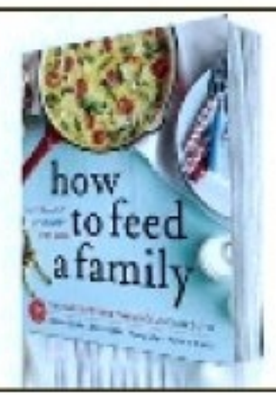

FRIDAY'S ANSWERS

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3	8	4	7	6	9	5	2	1
1	7	6	5	2	3	8	4	9
7	2	5	4	3	1	6	9	8
6	4	9	8	5	2	1	3	7
8	3	1	9	7	6	2	5	4
9	5	8	3	1	7	4	6	2
2	1	3	6	9	4	7	8	5
4	6	7	2	8	5	9	1	3

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